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International migration and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 71/237. The introduction summarizes the deliberations of the Assembly on international migration and development. Section II presents information on recent levels and trends in migration globally and the status of ratification of United Nations legal instruments related to migration and human mobility. It also discusses the relationship between migration and development and the contributions of intergovernmental bodies in addressing this relationship. Section III summarizes recent activities on migration and related topics by members of the Global Migration Group. Section IV reports on progress in developing indicators to monitor the migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. Section VI discusses six key elements to consider as part of a global programme to improve the collection and use of migration data. Lastly, the report concludes with some actionable recommendations.

On 10 and 11 December 2018, the General Assembly will convene the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Marrakesh, Morocco. Taking place more than 20 years after the Assembly first considered the possibility of holding a United Nations conference on international migration, the Conference will mark a turning point in international cooperation on human mobility.

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I. Introduction

1. Following the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, the General Assembly called repeatedly on the Secretary-General to ascertain the interest of Member States in convening a United Nations conference on international migration and development.[1] Given the diversity of views among Member States, in 2004 the Assembly decided to convene a high-level dialogue on international migration and development (Assembly resolution 58/208, para. 9). The first high-level dialogue, held in 2006, gave rise to the Global Forum on Migration and Development, an informal, voluntary and State-led platform for dialogue and cooperation, and to the Global Migration Group, an informal inter-agency mechanism to promote coherence in work on migration by entities of the United Nations system and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

2. In the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which was adopted at the second high-level dialogue, held in 2013, the important contribution of migration in realizing the Millennium Development Goals was acknowledged (Assembly resolution 68/4, para. 8). In its recognition that human mobility is a key factor for sustainable development (ibid.), the Declaration paved the way for the inclusion of international migration and related topics in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Assembly resolution 70/1) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (Assembly resolution 69/313, annex).

3. In response to a sharp increase in levels of migration and displacement, the Assembly convened a high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants on 19 September 2016. In the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (Assembly resolution 71/1) adopted at the meeting, Member States committed to developing, by 2018, two global compacts, one for safe, orderly and regular migration and one on refugees.[2] Once adopted, these compacts will herald a new era of international cooperation on migration and refugee issues.

4. The Assembly had decided to convene the third high-level dialogue by no later than 2019 (Assembly resolution 69/229, para. 32) and to hold future high-level dialogues on a quadrennial basis beginning with the seventy-third session (Assembly resolution 71/237, para. 34). As part of the follow-up and review of the migration compact, Member States would decide to repurpose and rename future high-level dialogues as the International Migration Review Forum, to be held every four years beginning in 2022.

5. In May 2018, the Secretary-General announced the establishment of the United Nations Network on Migration as a successor to the Global Migration Group. The main purpose of the Network is to ensure effective and coherent system-wide support for implementation of the migration compact once adopted. The Network will be coordinated by IOM, which in 2016 became part of the United Nations system. The new Network will have both a core and an extended membership, with a limited number of working groups on key topics.

II. International migration: a global overview

6. Sections A and B below summarize trends in global migration and the demographic impacts of migration. Sections C and D discuss the status of ratification

[1] See Assembly resolutions 49/127, 50/123, 52/189, 54/212, and 56/203.

[2] In this report, the proposed Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is referred to as the "global migration compact" or "migration compact", while the proposed Global Compact on Refugees is referred to as the "global refugee compact" or "refugee compact".

of relevant United Nations legal instruments and linkages between migration and sustainable development.

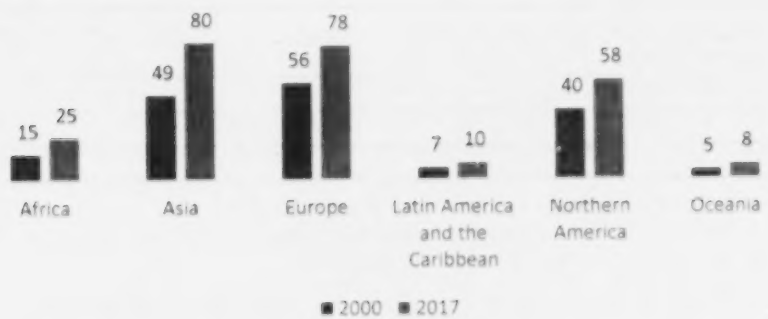
A. Global migration: levels and trends

7. Historically, a multitude of factors have motivated people to migrate. The same is true in the twenty-first century, when many different forces are contributing to population movements, including jobs and prosperity, violence and insecurity, human rights violations, population growth or decline, shifts in the population age distribution, inequality and structural changes in labour markets.

8. Between 2000 and 2017, the estimated number of international migrants increased by almost 50 per cent, reaching 258 million in 2017 (figure 1). Together, Asia and Europe host 6 of every 10 international migrants, corresponding to 31 and 30 per cent, respectively, of persons who reside outside their country of birth, followed by Northern America at 22 per cent. Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania host approximately 10, 4 and 2 per cent of the world's migrants, respectively.

9. Although migration is a global phenomenon, international migrants tend to settle in relatively few countries. In 2017, the 10 destination countries with the largest immigrant populations hosted 51 per cent of the world's international migrants.

Figure 1
Number of international migrants by region of destination, 2000 and 2017 (millions)



Source: United Nations (Population Division), *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 revision* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2017).

10. Migration is also concentrated by country of origin, although to a lesser extent than by country of destination. In 2017, the 10 countries of origin with the largest diaspora populations accounted for 36 per cent of the world's migrants.

11. The share of migrants in the total population varies significantly by country. In 2017, international migrants accounted for nearly 12 per cent of the population in the more developed regions — up from less than 9 per cent in 2000 — compared to less than 2 per cent in the developing regions.

12. Most migrants settle in another country within their region of birth. In 2017, for example, 67 per cent of migrants born in Europe were residing in another country of that region, compared to 60 per cent for Asia or Oceania, 28 per cent for Northern America and 16 per cent for Latin America and the Caribbean.

13. Older migrants outnumber younger migrants in the more developed regions, whereas younger migrants outnumber older migrants in the developing regions, reflecting the overall demographic characteristics of those regions. In the developing regions, 21 per cent of international migrants are under the age of 20, more than double the share of migrants aged 60 or over (10 per cent). By contrast, in the developed regions, 21 per cent of the migrant population are aged 60 or over, more than double the share of migrants under the age of 20 (9 per cent).

14. In 2017, female migrants outnumbered male migrants in Europe (52 per cent), Northern America (51.5 per cent), Oceania (51 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (50.4 per cent), while they were outnumbered by male migrants in Africa (47.1 per cent) and Asia (42.4 per cent). Between 2000 and 2017, the percentage of female migrants increased in all regions except Asia, while globally it fell slightly over this period, from 49.3 to 48.4 per cent. The increasing percentage of female migrants in most regions may be due, in part, to the ageing of the population combined with greater female life expectancy, while the declining percentage in Asia reflects a sharp rise in the demand for migrant workers in construction and related sectors in Western Asia.

15. Between 2000 and 2017, the number of refugees and asylum seekers worldwide increased from 16 to 26 million, more than half of whom were under the age of 18 in 2017. Also in 2017, more than 80 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers resided in countries of the developing regions, while just 10 countries hosted 62 per cent of all refugees and asylum-seekers worldwide.

B. Demographic impacts of migration

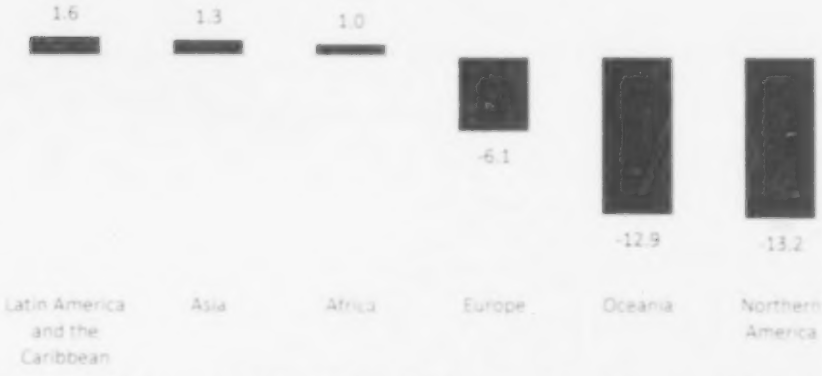
16. The role of migration as a driver of population change is expected to increase in the next few decades as global fertility continues to decline. Since the 1990s, migration has overtaken natural increase (excess of births over deaths) as the main driver of population growth in the more developed regions, where it is expected that the number of deaths will exceed the number of births starting in the 2020s, making migration the sole driver of population growth in the coming decades. By 2050, however, assuming a continuation of current migration flows in terms of direction and magnitude, the population of the more developed regions is expected to decline in size, as the net inflow of migrants is projected to become insufficient to compensate for the excess of deaths over births during the 2040s.

17. The impact of migration on population size varies greatly across geographic regions of the world. If all international migration were to halt immediately and remain at zero in the coming decades, the population of the more developed regions would be 9 per cent smaller by 2050 than if current levels and patterns of migration continued, whereas the population of the developing regions would be about 1 per cent larger. Without future migration, the populations of Northern America and Oceania would be 13 per cent smaller than expected by 2050, while in Europe this difference would be about 6 per cent; by comparison, the populations of Africa and Asia would be 1 per cent larger by 2050, while the population of Latin America and the Caribbean would be 2 per cent larger (figure 2).

18. Without future migration, the median age of the population of Northern America would be 2 years higher than expected by 2050, while the equivalent difference in Oceania and Europe would be 1.6 and 1.1 years, respectively. Similarly, old-age dependency ratios would rise more rapidly in these regions in the absence of future

migration.[3] As with the impact on growth, the hypothetical elimination of future migration would have a comparatively negligible impact on the median age or old-age dependency ratio in the developing regions as a whole. Without future migration, the working-age population would be smaller than expected in 2050 in Northern America (-16 per cent), Oceania (-15 per cent) and Europe (-8 per cent) and slightly larger than expected in Latin America and the Caribbean (+2 per cent) and in Africa and Asia (+1 per cent).

Figure 2
Difference in projected population size without future migration, 2050 (percentages)



Source: United Nations (Population Division), "Migration and population change: drivers and impacts", Population Facts, No. 2017/8 (December 2017).

C. Ratification of migration-related United Nations legal instruments

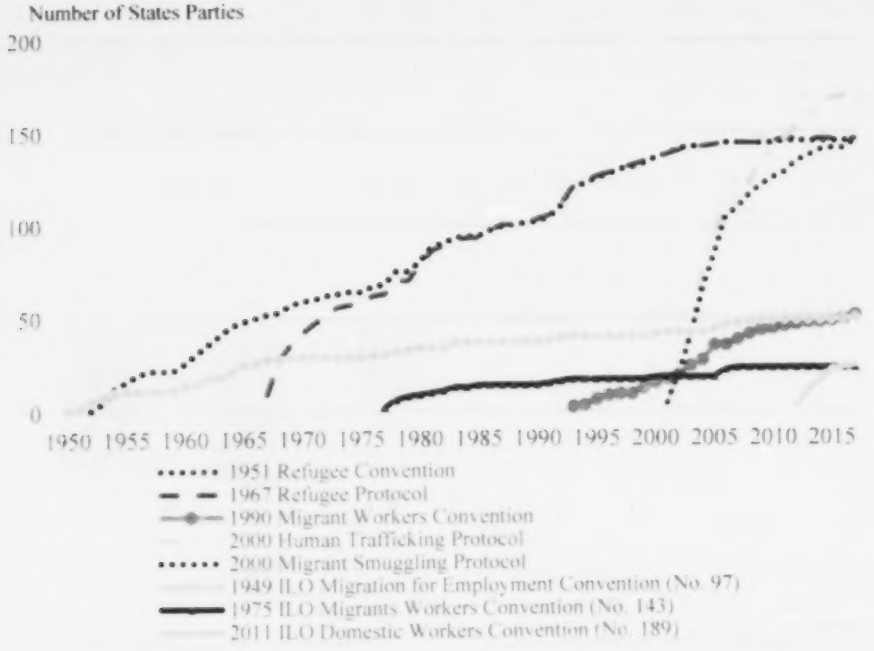
19. Over the past few decades, Member States have ratified a series of multilateral treaties relevant to migration, including labour migration, refugee movements, statelessness, migrant smuggling and human trafficking. These instruments provide helpful guidance for the formulation and implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, as called for in target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

20. The extent of ratification varies greatly by type of instrument and by region. As of May 2018, instruments designed to protect refugees and combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking had been ratified by more than three quarters of Member States, whereas the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and instruments to address statelessness had been ratified by fewer than half of all Member States (figure 3).

21. As of May 2018, only 51 Member States had ratified the 1990 Migrant Workers Convention. Collectively, these countries hosted about 23.5 million international migrants in 2017 or about 9 per cent of the global total. None of the States Parties to this Convention are major migrant-receiving countries: only 5 of them hosted more than 1 million international migrants in 2017.

[3] The old-age dependency ratio is equal to the number of people over 65 divided by the population aged 20 to 64.

Figure 3
Status of ratification of multilateral treaties related to migration, 1950–2018


Number of States Parties
200
150
100
50
0
1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015
1951 Refugee Convention
1967 Refugee Protocol
1990 Migrant Workers Convention
2000 Human Trafficking Protocol
2000 Migrant Smuggling Protocol
1949 ILO Migration for Employment Convention (No. 97)
1975 ILO Migrants Workers Convention (No. 143)
2011 ILO Domestic Workers Convention (No. 189)

Source: United Nations Treaty Collection website, https://treaties.un.org/Pages/Home.aspx?clang=_en.

22. The 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children is the most widely ratified United Nations legal instrument related to migration, with 172 ratifications, while 145 States have ratified the 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. The rapid and widespread ratification of these two protocols reflects the concern among Member States about the challenges associated with irregular migration, including the abuse and exploitation of migrants and the role of transnational criminal networks.

23. The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol have been ratified by 145 and 146 Member States, respectively. While almost all countries in Europe (95 per cent) and most countries in Africa (89 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (82 per cent) have ratified the Convention and Protocol, the regions of Oceania and Asia lag behind (57 and 40 per cent, respectively).

24. The 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons has been ratified by 90 countries, while 71 Member States have acceded to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. In Europe, more than two thirds of all countries have ratified both Conventions; by contrast, only 17 and 8 per cent of Asian countries have ratified the 1954 and 1961 Conventions, respectively.

D. International migration and sustainable development

25. Migration and mobility are linked closely to development processes, including the demographic transition. As national income per capita rises and countries become integrated into global systems of disease control and public health, population size tends to increase thanks to declining mortality rates. Population growth, combined with dislocations in the rural labour force linked to the modernization of agriculture,

spurs widespread urbanization and emigration. With continuing development, fertility levels decline, population growth slows down and eventually stabilizes, the pace of urbanization diminishes and emigration tends to become less common than immigration.[4] Thus, the propensity for emigration tends to rise and then fall as countries become more developed,[5] reflecting the impact of development on migration patterns and trends.

26. There is substantial evidence, as well, to demonstrate the impact of migration on development. In 2017, officially recorded remittances to low- and middle-income countries reached $466 billion. Remittances have helped to lift millions of people out of poverty, contributing to improvements in food security, education, health, well-being and housing for families and communities in countries of origin. However, the contribution of migration to sustainable development goes far beyond personal financial transfers and includes the transfer of skills and knowledge through formal and informal education and the promotion of trade and investment, often involving well-organized and cohesive diaspora populations. Moreover, in countries of destination, migrants often fill gaps in the labour market and compensate for shortages in the work force caused by demographic shifts or other factors. Migrants often perform jobs shunned by local workers, thus complementing the local labour force. As entrepreneurs, migrants often create jobs and contribute to the fiscal base. Yet, migration can also bring challenges. In small developing countries, for example, emigration may contribute to shortages of skilled workers, including health workers. In destination countries, large inflows of migrants can displace local workers and create other challenges, especially in the short term.

27. Since 1995, the Second Committee has considered the sub-item "International migration and development", generally on a biennial basis, on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General. Given its recent request for the Secretary-General to report on implementation of the migration compact on a biennial basis, the Assembly may wish to consider whether or how to align these two agenda items.

28. The Commission on Population and Development has been the principal intergovernmental body advising the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the status of implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, which includes a section that addresses key aspects of international migration. The special theme of the annual session of the Commission has focused on migration five times since 1995, including in 2006 and 2013 in preparation for the first and the second high-level dialogues.

29. Both the Second Committee and the Commission have highlighted the linkages between migration and development, while also addressing broader issues such as the human rights of migrants and the challenges of irregular migration and return. With the adoption of the migration compact, the General Assembly may wish to consider the role of these bodies and their potential future contributions to the intergovernmental consideration of international migration, including in support of the thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals within the high-level political forum.

[4] W. Zelinsky, "The hypothesis of the mobility transition", *Geographical Review*, vol. 61, No. 2 (April 1971).

[5] http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/technicalpapers/docs/TP2017-8.pdf.

III. Activities undertaken by the United Nations system

30. This section provides an overview of activities undertaken by members of the Global Migration Group, either individually or collectively, in the area of migration.

A. New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

31. Over the past two years, entities of the United Nations system have carried out numerous activities to advance the aims of the New York Declaration, including by assisting Member States in the preparation of the global migration compact. Members of the Global Migration Group provided inputs to issue briefs prepared for thematic consultations held by the General Assembly in 2017. They also contributed to regional consultations, prepared briefing notes and organized technical meetings and side-events. The regional commissions convened meetings and prepared written inputs for consultations about the migration compact within their respective regions.[6] Members of the Global Migration Group also provided expert advice to Member States during the intergovernmental negotiations held between February and July 2018.

32. The Global Migration Group published a handbook to support Member States in collecting and analysing migration data, integrating migration into national development plans and strategies and monitoring the migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.[7] The guide is expected to serve as a tool for implementing a global programme to strengthen national capacities in data collection, analysis and dissemination, as envisioned in the draft global migration compact.[8]

33. Migrants who fall outside the legal category of "refugee" may sometimes find themselves in vulnerable situations because of the conditions in their country of origin, the circumstances in which they travel, the conditions they face upon arrival in a destination country or personal characteristics such as age, gender, disability or health status. The Global Migration Group published a set of principles and guidelines on the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations.[9]

34. IOM and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) took the lead in developing a Global Migration Group guidance note on integrating migration and displacement in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.[10]

35. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is leading the development of the global refugee compact, founded on the practical application of the comprehensive refugee response framework described in annex I of the New York Declaration, which is now being used in practice by 14 countries. The refugee compact is being developed through a process of consultation with Member States and other stakeholders and will be presented for adoption by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

B. Assisting migrants, refugees and stateless persons

36. In cooperation with States and partners, UNHCR provided protection and assistance to millions of persons of concern, carried out biometric registration and

[6] https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/regional-consultations.

[7] http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/others/docs/handbook_GMG_Dec_2017.pdf.

[8] See also section V.

[9] https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Migration/PrinciplesAndGuidelines.pdf.

[10] http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/system/files/GMG_Integrating_Migration_and_Displacement_into_UNDAFs_Guidance_Note_2017.pdf.

worked to include the needs of forcibly displaced persons in development planning. The Office developed a strategy for the central Mediterranean and updated its 10-Point Plan in Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration.[11] As part of its campaign to end statelessness by 2024, UNHCR issued guidance to prevent statelessness in nationality laws,[12] establish statelessness determination procedures[13] and promote registration at birth.[14] UNHCR developed, with the World Bank, a set of principles to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16.9 on legal identity for all, including birth registration. UNHCR and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) collaborated to ensure the right of children to a nationality and to improve the protection of unaccompanied and separated children in Europe.

37. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) assists Member States in the formulation of anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling policies and promotes cooperation to prevent trafficking and smuggling, prosecute traffickers and smugglers and protect victims of trafficking. In the past two years, UNODC has provided specialized training to government officials and criminal justice practitioners in more than 70 countries. The Office conducted needs assessments in 13 countries, complemented by more than 100 technical assistance activities.[15]

38. The International Labour Organization (ILO) prioritized its "decent work" agenda and its fundamental principles and rights at work within the context of the global migration compact, including by forging partnerships with IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The ILO and UNHCR agreed on joint activities in the context of the refugee compact.

39. IOM trains law enforcement officers, immigration personnel and community members on the identification, referral, rights and needs of victims of trafficking and forced labour and of other migrants in vulnerable situations. It has rolled out programmes to reduce violence affecting local communities in over 40 countries, working to prevent displacement and encouraging a sustainable approach to return migration. IOM seeks to counter violent extremism and radicalization of young people by creating opportunities for at-risk youth. IOM assists Governments in post-conflict situations by strengthening transitional justice mechanisms and providing victims with appropriate remedy, reparations or compensation.

40. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) has promoted a gender-responsive approach in the global migration compact by sponsoring a working group on the human rights of women migrants. UN-Women has implemented programmes to promote the rights of women migrant workers in Mexico, the Philippines and the Republic of Moldova, striving to protect women against exclusion and exploitation at all stages of the migration process. In Asia and the Pacific, UN-Women, in partnership with the ILO, IOM and UNODC, has worked to promote safe migration, prevent human trafficking, protect the human rights of women migrant workers and end violence against them.

41. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided reproductive healthcare services in humanitarian settings as well as services catering to the medical, psycho-social and legal needs of survivors of gender-based violence. The Fund worked closely with national authorities, partners and communities to ensure that minimum standards are in place to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in humanitarian settings.

[11] http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/the-10-point-plan-in-action.html.
[12] http://www.refworld.org/docid/58cfab014.html.
[13] http://www.refworld.org/docid/57836cff4.html.
[14] http://www.refworld.org/docid/5a0ac8f94.html.
[15] https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/publications.html?ref=menuside.

42. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has worked with UNHCR and other partners to assist Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh and to mitigate the environmental impacts of displacement.

43. FAO has expanded livelihood opportunities for Syrian refugees and host communities in Lebanon and has rehabilitated agricultural infrastructure, restored rural livelihoods and enhanced food security for returnees and host communities in Iraq. In Turkey, UNDP has assisted community centres and organized vocational training for Syrian refugees. The ILO, UNDP and the World Food Programme have analysed economic opportunities for Syrian refugees and host communities in the region.[16] The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has worked with national authorities to address the environmental consequences of the Syrian refugee crisis by integrating environmental protection into national response plans. UNHCR and the World Bank have worked to expand access to concessional loans from multilateral development banks for middle-income countries hosting large refugee populations. In Iraq, UNDP implemented rehabilitation and construction projects and promoted access to basic services for thousands of refugees and displaced persons and for host communities. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization has created employment opportunities for local communities hosting refugees and internally displaced persons in Iraq and Jordan.

44. In Zambia, UNDP, UNHCR and other partners have promoted the economic, social and legal integration of Angolan and Rwandan refugees while working to strengthen the resilience of host communities.

45. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has assisted displaced and migrant children in more than 80 countries, providing services in such areas as child protection, health and education, nutrition and social protection. A report by UNICEF and IOM analysed the vulnerabilities of children, especially unaccompanied minors, on their way to Europe.[17]

46. A working paper by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization found that, despite the existence of strong legal frameworks, refugees encounter many obstacles that prevent them from having access to education.[18]

47. In 2016, the ILO adopted a set of principles on ensuring access to local labour markets for refugees and other forcibly displaced persons.[19]

48. A recent UNDP report examined the relationship between forced displacement and violent extremism in Guatemala, Lebanon, Nigeria, Turkey and Vanuatu.[20]

49. UNEP developed responses to address environmental impacts arising from displacement in Guatemala, Nigeria, Turkey, Vanuatu and Yemen as well as to mitigate environmental consequences of recent movements of Venezuelan migrants into Brazil and Colombia.

50. The Department of Public Information promoted the "Together" campaign — launched in 2016 to combat xenophobia and discrimination — through its information centres and social media platforms. In January 2018, DPI brought together hundreds of university students, highlighting opportunities to promote respect, safety and

[16] http://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/dam/rbas/doc/SyriaResponse/Exec-Summary-Jobs%20Make%20the%20Difference.pdf.

[17] https://data.unicef.org/resources/harrowing-journeys/.

[18] http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0025/002510/251076E.pdf.

[19] http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/projects/WCMS_536440/lang--en/index.htm.

[20] http://journey-to-extremism.undp.org/content/downloads/UNDP-JourneyToExtremism-report-2017-english.pdf.

dignity for refugees. A charter, produced at the event, called on institutions of higher education to participate in the #JoinTogether initiative.

C. Migration, poverty reduction and sustainable development

51. UNDP, with the support of the ILO, IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and UN-Women, completed the Joint Migration and Development Initiative in December 2017. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities, the Initiative, carried out in eight countries, sought to empower migrants as development actors at the local and regional level.

52. Since 2011, IOM and UNDP have sponsored a global programme to support the mainstreaming of migration in national development and sectoral policy planning in Bangladesh, Ecuador, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Serbia and Tunisia.

53. IOM has provided services to migrants and their families in host and home countries, including programmes for pre-departure orientation for prospective migrants, for transfer and productive use of migrant remittances and for development of entrepreneurial skills among migrants. The ILO piloted a project to improve access to social protection for migrant workers in Costa Rica and Mexico.

54. IOM has assisted Governments in preparing for, and responding to, migratory movements linked to environmental hazards. The ILO, IOM and UNHCR supported multilateral efforts to address climate-related human mobility and displacement in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

55. Since 2006, the Financing Facility for Remittances of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has funded over 60 projects in more than 45 countries, promoting innovative business models for diaspora investment, remittance transfers, financial inclusion and entrepreneurship for migrants and members of their families.

56. In collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the World Bank, IFAD organized a global forum on remittances, investment and development at the United Nations in New York in June 2017. At the forum, participants presented innovative approaches for promoting safer, cheaper and faster transfer of remittances and for the productive use of remittances, as well as ways and means of encouraging diaspora investments.[21] The first State-led forum on remittances, investment and development was held in Kuala Lumpur in May 2018.[22]

57. In its resolution 72/281 of 11 June 2018, the General Assembly proclaimed 16 June as the International Day for Family Remittances.

58. FAO has promoted rural employment in communities of origin of young migrants in various African countries. In 2017, World Food Day was dedicated to highlighting the relationship between migration, food security, nutrition and rural development.

59. UNDP and UNEP provided loans to female family members of migrant workers in Tajikistan. The loans helped migrant families to develop new livelihoods, create small businesses and reduce their dependence on remittances.

[21] www.remittancesgateway.org/gfrid-2017.

[22] www.gfrid2018.org.

D. Data, training and knowledge management

60. The Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, released new estimates of the number of international migrants by age, sex, country of origin and country of residence;[23] the *International Migration Report 2017* analysed recent levels and trends of global migration. The Division hosted a coordination meeting on international migration, the largest multi-stakeholder event on migration held annually at the United Nations in New York.[24] The Division launched a compendium of agreed language on migration, a searchable database with texts of conventions, declarations and resolutions related to migration and adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the governing bodies of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system.[25]

61. Together with IOM and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Statistics Division and Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs prepared a note on strengthening migration data in the context of the migration compact[26] and organized the first International Forum on Migration Statistics, held in Paris, in January 2018.[27] The two Divisions also worked with the International Union for the Scientific Population to developing a statement on improving migration data, research and training as an input to the negotiations on the migration compact.[28]

62. The Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Population Division and IOM, convened an expert group meeting on migration statistics. The recommendations of the meeting will be used to guide the preparation of a handbook on sustainable development indicators relevant for migration.[29] In collaboration with the Population Division, IOM, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and UNODC, the Statistics Division launched a new programme to strengthen the collection and use of migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New York Declaration.[30]

63. The Statistics Division worked closely with the Bureau of the Statistical Commission to provide technical inputs to the intergovernmental negotiations on the global migration compact.

64. UNFPA advocated for the inclusion of migration questions in population censuses. It also provided technical support for calculating Sustainable Development Goals indicators and generating data disaggregated by migratory status using information from censuses.

65. As part of a joint labour migration programme for Africa, the African Union and the ILO launched the first edition of a report on labour migration statistics in Africa.[31] The ILO maintains the International Labour Migration Statistics Database of the

[23] http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates17.shtml.
[24] http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/coordination/index.shtml.
[25] http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/resolutions/docsearch.shtml.
[26] https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/stocktaking_un_iom_oecd.pdf.
[27] http://www.oecd.org/migration/forum-migration-statistics/.
[28] https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/iussp_statement_global_compact_on_migration.pdf
[29] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/new-york--egm-migration-data.
[30] https://www.un.org/development/desa/da/project-view-public/.
[31] http://www.ilo.org/addisababa/information-resources/publications/WCMS_575651/lang--en/index.htm.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which includes statistical data on migrant workers in Southeast Asia.[32]

66. United Nations University (UNU) issued a report on representations of migration in the media, exploring how the media shapes and disseminates perceptions of migration. UNU organized a series of panels on academic perspectives on migration to support the preparation of the migration compact. A UNU programme at the University of Maastricht, the Netherlands, offers a diploma in the governance of migration, a course designed for practitioners from developing countries.

67. UN-Women's training centre in the Dominican Republic offered courses on migration and development from a gender and rights-based perspective.

68. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development examined the role of well-managed migration in addressing Africa's development challenges.[33] The report found that intra-African migration acted as a catalyst for inclusive economic growth and structural transformation.

69. In 2017, ESCAP, together with IOM, prepared a report on the challenges and opportunities of safe, orderly and regular migration in the Asia-Pacific region.[34]

70. IOM collects a vast amount of operational data on displacement and "missing migrants".[35] IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre in Berlin analyses and disseminates migration data and works with partners to establish and manage data-driven initiatives. The Centre responds to requests for capacity-building on migration data and contributes to the analysis and monitoring of migration trends and migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.[36] In coordination with several United Nations agencies, IOM has developed a Global Migration Data Portal,[37] providing access to a broad range of data on international migration.

71. IFAD launched RemitSCOPE, a web-based portal providing information on remittance transfers, remittance markets and regulatory frameworks. Bringing together information on the financial needs of families receiving remittances and financial strategies of the private sector, the portal is expected to serve as a resource for entrepreneurs in financial technology, remittance service providers and financial regulators.[38]

72. UNHCR, together with the statistical offices of the European Union, Norway and Turkey, worked to develop guidelines on compiling statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons. In April 2018, UNHCR and the World Bank signed a memorandum of understanding to develop a joint data centre on forced displacement.[39]

73. In June 2018, UNODC launched its first global assessment on the smuggling of migrants, comparing information from 30 major migrant smuggling routes.[40] The study analyses commonalities and differences between these smuggling routes in terms of the profile of those being smuggled, the nature of the crime being perpetrated

[32] http://www.ilo.org/asia/WCMS_416366/lang--en/index.htm.
[33] http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/aldcafrica2018_en.pdf.
[34] www.unescap.org/publications/towards-safe-orderly-and-regular-migration-asia-pacific-region.
[35] http://missingmigrants.iom.int/downloads.
[36] https://gmdac.iom.int/.
[37] https://migrationdataportal.org.
[38] www.remitscope.org.
[39] http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2018/04/20/world-bank-group-unhcr-sign-memorandum-to-establish-joint-data-center-on-forced-displacement.
[40] http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/glosom.html.

and the human costs involved. It also provides estimates of the magnitude of migrant smuggling and of revenues generated by these criminal activities.

IV. Status of Sustainable Development Goals indicators related to migration

74. In its resolution 71/313, the General Assembly adopted a global indicator framework to monitor the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Members of the Global Migration Group have developed and refined methodologies, tested indicators and strengthened collaborations with national statistical systems. This section summarizes progress made in measuring 10 migration-related indicators based on the reports of the custodian agencies.[41] Potentially, this indicator framework could also play a role in monitoring the status of implementation of the global migration compact.

75. Significant work needs to be done before the 10 migration-related indicators listed below can be used for monitoring progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. As of May 2018, the IAEG-SDGs had considered only 3 of the 10 indicators as conceptually clear, with an established methodology and regular production of appropriate data (see table below).

76. Countries with the greatest burden of disease generally have the smallest number of skilled health professionals per capita. The World Health Organization (WHO) developed a methodology to measure the density and distribution of health workers (indicator 3.c.1) and worked with the ILO and OECD on data collection. Over the past 10 years, the number of foreign-born doctors and nurses in OECD countries increased by 60 per cent, a trend that is likely to continue due to the rising demand for health-care workers. The WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel provides a voluntary framework to develop policies related to the mobility of health professionals.[42]

Table
Overview of global Sustainable Development Goals indicators related to migration

Indicator	*Tier classification*	*Custodian agency*	*Description*
3.c.1	I	WHO	Health worker density and distribution
4.b.1	I	OECD	Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study
8.8.1	I	ILO	Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status
8.8.2	I	ILO	Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status

[41] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/Tier%20Classification%20of%20SDG%20Indicators_11%20May%202018_web.pdf.

[42] http://www.who.int/hrh/migration/code/WHO_global_code_of_practice_EN.pdf.

Indicator	*Tier classification*	*Custodian agency*	*Description*
10.7.1	III	ILO, World Bank	Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination
10.7.2	III	United Nations (Population Division), IOM	Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies
10.c.1	II	World Bank	Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted
16.2.2	I	UNODC	Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation
17.3.2	I	World Bank	Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP
17.18.1	III	United Nations (Statistics Division)	Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Source: Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDG) Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators of 11 May 2018, available at: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/.

77. The volume of development assistance for scholarships abroad (indicator 4.b.1) declined from US$ 12 billion in 2010 to US$ 11.5 billion in 2015. Given that countries such as China, Brazil and India and the private sector do not report data to OECD Development Assistance Committee, the coverage of the data on scholarships is only partial. In Sweden, about 50 per cent of all scholarship recipients from Eastern Europe over the past 20 years returned to their country of origin, 27 per cent remained in Sweden and 23 per cent moved to a third country.[43]

78. Migrant workers are subject to twice the number of injuries of local workers, while this number is even higher for irregular migrants employed in the informal sector. Moreover, migrant workers are often denied joining trade unions or other labour rights. The ILO continued its work to develop methodologies for indicators on occupational injuries (indicator 8.8.1) and labour rights (indicator 8.8.2), in close collaboration with IOM and WHO. ILO occupational safety and health standards provide the basis for protecting the safety and health of both migrant and non-migrant workers.

79. Reducing recruitment costs and associated fees could lead to considerable savings for labour migrants. The ILO and the World Bank continued to develop a methodology to assist member States in measuring recruitment costs for migrant workers and related fees (indicator 10.7.1).

[43] http://www.delmi.se/en#!/en/news/new-delmi-policy-brief.

80. The Population Division and IOM worked to develop a methodology for monitoring the number of countries with well-managed migration policies (indicator 10.7.2). It is envisaged that the Division's *United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development*, carried out periodically at the request of the General Assembly, will include questions on migration governance, guided by the IOM migration governance framework. Involvement of IOM country offices is expected to improve feedback by Member States. IOM, in collaboration with the Economist Intelligence Unit, assists over 40 countries in assessing the status of migration governance based on some 90 indicators.

81. According to the World Bank, the global costs of transferring remittances averaged 7.2 per cent in 2017 (indicator 10.c.1). The costs of transferring remittances have fallen only slightly in recent years, while prices remain particularly high in sub-Saharan Africa.[44] Increased competition and the elimination of exclusivity contracts are critical to lower remittance costs to less than three per cent, as envisioned in target 10.c. A steady inflow of remittances can be leveraged to access international capital markets since they reduce the risk ratings of countries in debt sustainability analyses. The potential economic impact of remittances is being monitored by tracking their volume as a percentage of gross domestic product (indicator 17.3.2).

82. UNODC has tested a statistical method to infer the total number of trafficked persons based on multiple incomplete reports of known cases (indicator 16.2.2). The methodology also produces information on the demographic characteristics of victims of human trafficking, on the relative importance of domestic and international trafficking and on the prevalence of trafficking in specific employment sectors.

83. In monitoring progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, the use of disaggregated data is critical to fulfilling the commitment in the 2030 Agenda to ensure that no one will be left behind. An expert group meeting on improving migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda, organized by the Statistics Division, identified an initial set of 24 indicators to be prioritized for disaggregation by migratory status (indicator 17.18.1).[45] The meeting agreed that, as a first step, countries may wish to distinguish migrants from non-migrants based on country of birth (foreign-born and native-born population) or citizenship (citizens and foreign citizens). Subsequently, disaggregation by migratory status could also include duration of stay, reasons for migration and the country of birth or citizenship of parents.

84. A recent study illustrated the usefulness of microdata samples from population censuses to disaggregate selected indicators for foreign-born and native-born populations in 75 countries.[46]

V. Towards a global programme on migration data

85. The General Assembly has repeatedly called for reliable, accurate and disaggregated statistical data and indicators that are nationally relevant and internationally comparable to support evidence-based policy-making and decision-making in all aspects of sustainable development. The New York Declaration stressed the importance of international cooperation for improving migration data through capacity-building, financial support and technical assistance.[47]

[44] https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/en.

[45] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/new-york--egm-migration-data.

[46] https://publications.iom.int/books/pilot-study-disaggregating-sdg-indicators-migratory-status.

[47] https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/stocktaking_un_iom_oecd.pdf.

86. Improving the evidence base on migration was a key theme of the thematic, regional and civil society consultations carried out in preparation for negotiations on the migration compact. Several participants in these consultations expressed the view that developing and implementing well-managed migration policies, ensuring that migrants are not left behind and countering xenophobia and intolerance require having access to reliable information.[48]

87. Many countries in the world are unable to track the inflows and outflows of international migrants and lack a solid baseline to measure progress in achieving the migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

88. A global programme for strengthening national capacities to gather and utilize migration-related data, as proposed in the draft global migration compact, will require a sustained effort and significant investment. Under the guidance of the Statistical Commission, Member States will work to elaborate and implement a comprehensive strategy for improving migration data. It is expected that a proposed framework will be discussed during the next session of the Statistical Commission in March 2019. This section reviews six key elements that could be part of such a strategy, focusing on the next 5 to 10 years.

A. Leveraging the 2020 round of population censuses

89. A census is the most valuable tool for establishing a baseline regarding the size and composition of a population. Many countries include migration questions in their censuses, focusing on country of birth or citizenship or on place of residence five years earlier. Some also probe for information on duration of residence, reasons for migration and country of birth or citizenship of parents. However, censuses often fail to collect adequate information on refugees and on migrants in an irregular situation. Once collected, migration data are often underexploited owing to delays in dissemination or a lack of data disaggregated by migratory status in tabulations provided by national statistical offices.

90. The global programme could provide dedicated financial support to countries to ensure that (a) recommended core questions on migration are included in the census, (b) enumerators are properly trained to identify migrants, (c) information campaigns encourage all migrants to participate, regardless of their legal status, without fear of reprisals, (d) migration data are properly collected, disaggregated and disseminated in a timely manner and (e) migration data are exchanged and shared between countries, with due regard for issues of privacy. Support provided to national statistical authorities could include defraying the costs of additional census questions, seconding experts in migration statistics or information technology to assist census teams, training enumerators and providing clear guidance about migration questions in census materials. Such support should be guided by the 2017 *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3*.[49]

B. Using migration data from administrative sources

91. All countries maintain registers to administer the adjudication of migration-related processes for foreign citizens, such as entry, exit, stay, employment, asylum and citizenship. Labour-exporting countries collect similar information on citizens working abroad. Although these registers collect information on inflows and outflows

[48] http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/coordination/16/documents/presentations/4a%20-%20Kraly_Outcomes%20from%20thematic%20sessions.pdf.

[49] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesM/Series_M67Rev3en.pdf.

of migrants, the reasons for migration as well as key migrant characteristics, such as sex, age, country of previous or next residence, length of stay, legal status and family characteristics, are generally not systematically compiled and disseminated.

92. In addition to developing guidelines for the collection, compilation and dissemination of migration-related data from administrative sources, building on the 1998 *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1*,[50] the global programme could boost the collection and utilization of data from administrative sources. This initiative should be informed by good practices, such as the collection of data on asylum applications and decisions by UNHCR, the collection of data on inflows and outflows of international migrants by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the collection of data on international migration in the Americas by the Organization of American States. Such data should exclusively be used for statistical purposes in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (General Assembly resolution 68/261).

C. Gathering data on migration through sample surveys

93. Historically, the international community has established survey programmes to address key policy concerns. In the early 1970s, the World Fertility Surveys were launched in response to concerns about rapid population growth. Subsequently, the Demographic and Health Surveys have provided critical data to address a range of health needs. Where relevant, countries may wish to carry out nationally representative migration surveys every 10 years, possibly about halfway between two consecutive censuses.

94. An international migration survey programme could assist national statistical offices by developing questionnaires and manuals, preparing software and seconding migration experts. The survey programme, to be carried out by a consortium of research institutes, would build on good practices, such as the international migration household surveys in the Mediterranean region,[51] the Mexican Migration Project[52] and the project on migration between Africa and Europe.[53]

95. Countries may wish to take advantage of existing household survey programmes, such as the Labour Force Surveys,[54] the Living Standards Measurement Studies,[55] the Demographic and Health Surveys[56] and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys,[57] by adding relevant questions or modules on migration. At a minimum, household surveys should distinguish between migrants and non-migrants. While adding migration questions to existing surveys may be cost-effective, it may also create challenges for sample design since migrants tend to be distributed unevenly within the population.

[50] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM_58rev1e.pdf.
[51] http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/european-neighbourhood-policy/enp-south/med-hims.
[52] http://mmp.opr.princeton.edu/.
[53] https://mafeproject.site.ined.fr/.
[54] http://www.ilo.org/dyn/lfsurvey/lfsurvey.home.
[55] http://surveys.worldbank.org/lsms.
[56] https://dhsprogram.com/.
[57] http://mics.unicef.org/.

D. Supporting demand-driven training programmes

96. Recent workshops, carried out by the Population and Statistics Divisions in Addis Ababa,[58] Bangkok,[59] Dakar,[60] and Rome[61] have highlighted the demand by Member States for training on methods for estimating migration levels and trends and for monitoring progress toward the migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda. A global programme could support the further development of demand-driven training programmes on migration data for practitioners working in national statistical offices, interior and labour ministries, immigration agencies, overseas employment agencies, non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities.

97. Such programmes should be guided by the 2030 Agenda, the New York Declaration and the global migration compact. They should provide training on United Nations standards for the collection and tabulation of migration statistics, the measurement and estimation of migration, indicators for measuring migration-related targets and the disaggregation of the Sustainable Development Goals by migratory status, as well as data exchange, collaboration and partnerships. The programmes should build on existing tools, such as the Global Migration Group handbook for improving the production and use of migration data for development[62] and the Statistics Division handbook on measuring international migration through population censuses.[63]

98. Training programmes must be complemented with in-country support and follow-up provided by qualified nationals, supported by international experts. Courses via eLearning could also be employed as a training method.

E. Establishing regional training centres

99. Regional training centres are critical for ensuring that training and research services are delivered as close as possible to the point of use. The call for regional migration observatories in the migration compact is consistent with recent proposals and initiatives, including for an African institute for remittances, an African migration observatory and a continuous reporting system on international migration in the Americas. Decades-long experience in supporting graduate institutes for demographic training and research, such as the Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques[64] and the Regional Institute for Population Studies[65] suggest that these centres should be embedded within existing universities. The Global Network of Institutes for Statistical Training, recently established by the Statistical Commission, could provide a useful platform for collaboration among training centres. The regional training centres would also provide an invaluable opportunity for countries in the same region to share and exchange data on migration to work toward improving the availability and quality of such data.

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[58] http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/other/workshop/2014/index.shtml.

[59] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/bangkok--international-migration-data/.

[60] http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/other/workshop/2015/index.shtml.

[61] http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/other/workshop/2016/index.shtml.

[62] www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/coordination/15/documents/Final%20Handbook%2030.06.16_AS4.pdf.

[63] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/documents/BG-4a-Migration-Handbook-E.pdf.

[64] http://www.iford-cm.org/.

[65] http://www.rips-ug.edu.gh/.

F. Promoting cooperation and partnerships

100. The global programme could facilitate bilateral, regional and South-South cooperation on migration between statistical offices and research institutions. The programme could be supported by the capacity-building mechanism outlined in paragraph 43 of the draft migration compact and executed by a consortium of international organizations with relevant expertise. Partners could include the private sector, the research community and civil society.

VI. Recommendations

101. **Member States who have not already done so are invited to sign, ratify or accede to United Nations treaties or conventions related to international migrants, refugees and stateless persons and to lift any remaining reservations, especially regarding economic and social integration. These actions will contribute to the design of well-managed migration policies and promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

102. **For the global programme on data envisaged by the migration compact, Member States may wish to consider the following six areas of work: (a) leveraging the 2020 round of population censuses, (b) using data from administrative records, (c) gathering migration data through sample surveys, (d) supporting demand-driven training programmes, (e) establishing regional training centres on migration and (f) promoting cooperation and partnerships.**

103. **Relevant entities of the United Nations system are encouraged to continue to develop Sustainable Development Goals indicators related to migration, many of which still lack an agreed methodology or regular production of the data required for measuring the indicator in a majority of countries.**

104. **The General Assembly may wish to consider whether or how to align new and existing agenda items related to migration.**

105. **The General Assembly may also wish to review the past role of existing bodies and discuss their potential future contributions to intergovernmental discussions of migration, including in support of the thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals within the high-level political forum.**